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VIEW

OF THE

GRIEVANCES

OF

IRELAND.

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By a True PATRIOT.

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VIEW, &c.

AS there is nothing more common, ſo nothing can ſurely be more ridiculous than to hear the melancholy Ejaculations of Gentlemen concerning the Diſtreſſes of their Country, and yet to obſerve that thoſe very Perſons never give themſelves the leaſt Trouble of enquiring into the true Cauſes of our Misfortunes, without which it is impoſſible that the proper and adequate Remedies ſhould ever be applied to them.

THAT there is but one little Spot in all this fertile Country, where Induſtry may be truly ſaid to flouriſh, is a Fact not to be controverted; and as that Spot is chiefly inhabited by Proteſtants, (were it not for the Induſtrious Commonalty which we ſee in ſome Popiſh Countries abroad) I own it would not be unnatural to conclude, that there was ſomething in the Spirit of Popery incompatible with a laborious Life: However, thus much is certain, that that Religion which is freeſt from ſlaviſh Principles, is undoubtedly beſt calculated for the Advancement of Commerce. Liberty and Trade generally go Hand

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in Hand together, and though under the Adminiſtration of a *Flury*, we have too ample a Demonſtration that it is not impoſſible for the moſt diffuſive Commerce to ſubſiſt as well in an arbitrary as a popiſh Government; yet this ſo very ſeldom happens to be the Caſe, that we may, I believe, lay it down as a Political Axiom, that wherever the Perſons, the Properties, and the Conſciences of People are beſt ſecured from Oppreſſion, to that Place, Men of all Countries will naturally reſort, as the great Hive where they may exerciſe their Induſtry, and enjoy the Sweets of their Labour in Peace and Safety.

England and *Holland* are the ſtrongeſt Proofs of the Truth of this Poſition, particularly the former, which outran all other Nations in Trade and Power, till by the Misfortunes of two expenſive Wars, it was neceſſitated to contract a Debt of near fifty Millions, and that Debt by the Fatality of Events, having been ſcarce at all diminiſhed in a Peace of almoſt thirty Years, the Price of Labour has been raiſed to ſo high a Degree, that even in the Commodity, which is the Staple of *England*, the *Britiſh* Merchants are underſold in all foreign Markets, and ſo they muſt always expect to be, till they can ſell as cheap as other Nations, which they will never be able to do, but by reducing their Taxes, and thereby reducing the Price of Labour.

But now let us enquire a little into the State of our own unhappy Country, and endeavour to inveſtigate the true Cauſes of that Want of Induſtry that hath ſo long prevailed amongſt us, and from which moſt of our Calamities have aroſe.

If you aſk a Country Gentleman to explain to you the Reaſon of that Face of Miſery which appears in moſt Parts of the Kingdom, he will inſtantly tell you, that it is owing to a native Sluggiſhneſs in our Inhabitants, whoſe Tempers are prone to Idleneſs and

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and Inactivity; and then with a very doleful Countenance he will probably bewail the great Want there is amongſt us of Proteſtant Tenants, which though really a Matter of the moſt juſt Concern to every hearty well-wiſher of *Ireland*, yet two to one upon making an Enquiry, you will find this ſame Country Gentleman, ſome *ſwaggering little Baſſa*, who ſqueezeth out a daily Profit by exerciſing every Art of Oppreſſion on all the poor Wretches round him; and therefore inſtead of wiſhing ſincerely to ſee any of thoſe miſerable Objects in a Condition to withſtand his Cruelty; he, by all Manner of Means endeavours to continue them in the ſame ſlaviſh Poverty and Ignorance. We muſt not therefore be ſurprized as long as Gentlemen go on in theſe deteſtable Practices, to find the common People averſe from Labour. There is ſcarce any Man breathing would be idle, if we made it worth his While to be otherwiſe; but if Men are to be Beggars, they will moſt certainly chuſe to be idle Beggars, and not working ones.

ANOTHER Cauſe of the *little* Improvement that appears in this Kingdom, *is* the impolitick Cuſtom of ſetting out ſuch large Quantities of Land in one Farm. A Gentleman, for Inſtance, who has a thouſand Acres to ſet, looks out immediately for a warm Man (as the Phraſe is) in order to have his Rent as he imagines well ſecured to him at all Events. This warm Man then having taken the uſual Leaſe of 31 Years, according to the wonted Practice of Gentlemen Tenants, inſtead of Occupying any Part of the Land himſelf, ſets it out in ſmall Parcels to Cottiers and Labourers, at an advanced Rent of eight or ten Shillings an Acre, or very probably more; and from this Moment he looks upon himſelf as a complete Gentleman, who by conſtant harraſſing theſe poor Devils, is indeed but too well enabled to go to Law, and to ſpend Penny

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for Penny with his Landlord, ſhould he preſume to do him the leaſt Diſobligation; for the firſt Tenant is always a Gentleman who wears as long a Sword at an Aſſizes, and rides in as well proved a Brace of Piſtols as his Landlord; and having the additional Advantage of ſome Attorney for a Son, a Brother, or a Nephew, he no longer conſiders himſelf as under any Tyes, but talks of a Lawſuit, if his Landlord dares to talk of his Rent. And thus the Cottier always remains a Cottier; for as no Man of Eſtate will truſt a few Acres to him upon reaſonable Terms, he finds nothing to incite his Induſtry, and for that Reaſon never looks further than his Potatoe Garden.

It is evident therefore that the great Bane of this Country lies in our having no Claſs of People amongſt us between the Gentleman and the Beggar: To find out ſome Cure for this Evil ought to be the Study of all our Men of Fortune; for till that is done, they muſt always expect at the End of a one and thirty Years Leaſe (inſtead of a cultivated Eſtate) to find themſelves in Poſſeſſion of an impoveriſhed Tract of Land, without a Ditch or a Stick on it.

Here without farther animadverting on the Folly of thoſe who ſet their Eſtates in the Manner above mentioned, and ſince the World is, they ſay, governed more by Example than Precept, I ſhall briefly relate the Method which a Right Hon. Member of the Houſe of Commons has practiſed for ſome Years paſt, by which he has not only raiſed his Eſtate ſome Hundreds a Year, but ſpread a Face of Opulence, Plenty, and Improvement for ſeveral Miles round him.

This Gentleman hath his Manſion-Seat fixed in the Centre of a noble Tract of Land, of near three Thouſand Acres. About five and Twenty Years ago, when he firſt came to the Poſſeſſion of his Eſtate, he perceived, that though he was reckoned

a Man of great Property, that in Fact he was only Maſter of an uncultivated wild Circle, without any Kind of Shelter on it better than a Furz-buſh, and that his Fortune inſtead of growing better, muſt at the ſame Rate of going on diminiſh every Day in its Value; and obſerving, that the three Gentlemen Tenants who held immediately under him, and under whom there were near 400 Cottiers, were (thro' the Means of the Profit that aroſe to them out of his Lands) eſteemed in that Country Perſons of ſufficient SWAGGER to carry a Jobb at an Aſſizes or Seſſions; all of them being Juſtices of the Peace, and one of them not a Jot leſs than a noble Colonel of the Militia: He thought it high Time to look to himſelf, and therefore very wiſely determined at the Expiration of their reſpective Leaſes (which was to be in about four Years Time) to ſeek out for Tenants, from whom he might expect his Rent without being obliged either to go to Law, or to fight for it:

For he argued thus.——

If the Perſons who now hold my Lands, can by reſetting them get fourteen Shillings an Acre, for what they pay me only ſix, why may not I advance my Eſtate, and at the ſame Time relieve a Number of wretched oppreſſed Families, by giving them the ſame Lands at eight or nine Shillings, and thereby reducing their Rents five or ſix Shillings in the Acre; and this, with other proper Encouragement, and a due Inſpection into their Management; rewarding the Diligent, and diſcountenancing the Idle, cannot fail in the End of producing an induſtrious Sett of Huſbandmen, and eſtabliſhing in a few Years a Kind of Yeomanry about me; and though ſome care may be neceſſary to effect ſo happy a change, yet ſurely, I ſhall find my pains moſt fully recompenced by ſeeing daily Improvements made on my Eſtate;

Eſtate; and by raiſing up as it were a Kind of Nurſery of Farmers for the whole Nation, at leaſt, I am ſufficiently convinced, that nothing can be loſt by the Experiment; for, if I ſet my Land as formerly, I have Demonſtration what the warm Men will do with it; and why the poor Creature that pays my Tenant fourteen Shillings, ſhould not with Chearfulneſs and Gratitude pay me eight, is what I own I cannot comprehend. This I am certain of, that no Method whatever can be attended with worſe Conſequences both to the Landlord and to the Nation, than that which is purſued at preſent.

When the Leaſes were determined, this Gentleman accordingly in purſuance of the Plan he had laid down; immediately advertiſed all the Country round, of the Manner in which he intended to ſet his Eſtate. His known Intregrity and Virtue, ſoon brought him in Propoſals from the beſt diſpoſed Cottiers, and little * Scologues, within many Miles of him. He culled out of thoſe that were already on his Land, all ſuch as he heard a good Account of; he fixed them at a moderate Rent, and had the Pleaſure to ſee his Project ſucceed every Day to his Wiſhes. He diſtreſſed no Man, whoſe Wretchedneſs did not proceed from his own *Idleneſs or wicked Diſpoſition*, but for the Example Sake, he never failed to treat ſuch with the utmoſt Severity; and thus, by Rewards and Puniſhments, by protecting the induſtrious poor Man, from the oppreſſions of the great and wealthy, and by an inviolable Attachment to Juſtice, he has in a few Years ſo entirely metamorphoſed the Face of that Country, that from a Scene of the greateſt Miſery and Deſolation, you now behold nothing but pleaſing Objects, warm comfortable Dwellings, pretty Parks well ditched and quickt, and

* An *Iriſhman* that hath ſaved a little Money.

and large regular Fields under Tillage; and what is ſtill better, a thorough Reformation in the Manners and Cuſtoms of the Natives. Hence it is evident what a Man of Virtue and Humanity, is capable of performing; and I will venture to ſay, the moſt Savage of our Aborigines, may be eaſily reclaimed and made uſeful Members of the Community, by the ſame juſt and ſteady Conduct in our Gentlemen of Eſtates.

WHO has not experienced the difference between a Gentleman Tenant and an honeſt poor one? the latter dreams of nothing but making his Rent, and paying it when made; whilſt the former (who looks upon himſelf to be as good a Man as his Landlord,) never thinks but with an ill Will of paying his Rent, and thereby ſhortning the Expences of his own Family, to ſatisfie the impertinent Demands of a Perſon, who is probably the Object of his Envy, and conſequently of a Perſon, whoſe Splendor he wiſhes rather to leſſen than advance.

BEFORE I quit this Point, it will be neceſſary to inform the Reader, that the worthy Gentleman I have been ſpeaking of, kept a watchful Eye over his Tenants, till he brought them to a fixed and ſettled Habit of Induſtry. His firſt Agreement was only for ſeven Years, with a Covenant to enlarge that Term to one and thirty; on Condition that they yearly laid down a particular Quantity of Land under Tillage, and drained, ditched, and planted annually a certain Number of Perches: Whoever failed in the Performance of theſe Articles, was ſure to feel the heavyeſt Marks of Reſentment from his Landlord; as on the contrary, he who chearfully did his beſt, was as certain of meeting all due Encouragement, by an Abatement perhaps of his Rent, or by ſome Aſſiſtance or other that was Equivalent to it; and as a further Incitement to their En-

deavours, they had each of them an expreſs Aſſurance of being preferred hereafter, upon the Determination of their reſpective Leaſes, according to their ſeveral Deſerts.

Thus, this Gentleman from a Spirit of Wiſdom and Beneficence, almoſt peculiar to himſelf, having nobly dared to break in upon the Cuſtom of the Times, has thereby not only rendered all his own Affairs perfectly eaſy, and free from Trouble and Litigation; but laid the Foundation for the Happineſs and Welfare of Thouſands of People as well in the preſent as future Generations.

I would not be underſtood by any thing I have here ſaid, as if I thought it imprudent to ſet Farms to Gentlemen, where you compel them by proper Covenants to occupy the Land themſelves: But where they take Land by Wholeſale, as it were, in order to Retail it out again at their own exorbitant Prices, I think they ought to be as much diſcountenanced as any Foreſtaller of a Market, who (regardleſs of the Injuries he does the Publick,) has nothing in View but his own wicked Lucre.

As it appears therefore to be utterly impoſſible for any conſiderable Improvements to go forward, while the common People are thus left in the Hands, and at the Mercy of Gentlemen Tenants, it is to be hoped that our Landed Men, will for their own Sakes lay themſelves out to Remedy ſo great an Evil. Gentlemen who live near their Eſtates, and who by that Means can always have a Lookout, to ſee that their Affairs are regularly conducted, cannot have the leaſt Objection (whatever others may) to the Method already mentioned, ſince from Experience (the beſt Rule for wiſe Men to go by) it has been always found to anſwer, whenever put in Practice.

Having thus pointed out a Method that cannot well fail of producing the happieſt Effects to the Kingdom,

Kingdom, by employing many of our idle Hands; let us in the next Place enquire, whether the Laws of *Ireland* as they ſtand at preſent, are not manifeſtly defective with regard to the making Converts of our common People.

It is a Truth, which I believe no Man of Obſervation will deny, that Penal Laws that do not in ſome Sort execute themſelves, will never anſwer the Purpoſes for which they were intended. The Statute which prefers the next Proteſtant Relation, and Gavels the Eſtates of Papiſts, I will venture to affirm, hath made more Proteſtants, than all the diſabling Laws that ever were, or ever can be enacted againſt the Growth of Popery; and the Reaſon of this is very evident, becauſe the ſaid Law executes itſelf.

Let us as a Proof of this look round a little, and ſee how few Men of Conſequence there are in the Kingdom of the Roman Catholick Religion; ſo very few indeed, that in another 20 Years there will not probably be a Papiſt amongſt us of one-hundred Pounds a Year, landed Eſtate.

From hence we may eaſily learn the true Reaſon why almoſt all our Commonalty are Papiſts; it is this, becauſe they have no Property on which the above-mentioned Law can have the leaſt Operation. For my own Part (with Reverence I ſpeak it to our Legiſlators) I could never underſtand the Policy of excluding Papiſts abſolutely from all Intereſts but Terms of 31 Years; the Conſequences of which Prohibition have been, that by applying all their Money in a Courſe of Trade, they are at preſent become the moſt moneyed Part of the Nation; and we don't want to be told, that in Times of Danger Money is the true Sinew of every Thing. Many likewiſe of the moſt Wealthy of them here withdrew themſelves with all their Subſtance out of the King-

dom, as many more are likely to do; and by this Means the Nation by a modeſt Computation hath loſt near Half a Million in leſs than 40 Years. Let it be conſidered, that if a Papiſt has a permanent Intereſt in a Country, a Houſe and Garden of his own contriving, and a Farm improved by his own Induſtry, he naturally grows attatched to that particular Spot, (as a Child of his own rearing) and is therefore more cautious of doing any Thing that may ſeparate him from ſo pleaſing a Dwelling. This therefore is the ſtrongeſt Tye on him to be a good Subject; whereas, if he lives as a Trader in a City, probably in another Man's Houſe, he has nothing to bind his Affections to any one Place more than another, but can eaſily call in whatever happens to be due to him, pack up his Alls, and ſo begone from us whenever he thinks proper.

I APPEAL to any unprejudiced Man of common Obſervations, whether there are better improved Farms in the Kingdom, than thoſe in the Hands of Papiſts, where they have Intereſts of Duration; nor on the contrary any more ſhockingly wretched, where their Terms extend only to one and thirty Years. I do not ſpeak this, that we ſhould in any Shape extend our Kindneſs to Papiſts, where it is not apparently for the Intereſt of the Nation, and the Advancement of the Proteſtant Religion ſo to do; but if the enabling Papiſts to take Leaſes for three Lives or ſixty one Years, be a ſure Method of improving our Country; and the Reſtrictions I ſhall preſently mention, of making daily Converts from Popery; then I apprehend that this Propoſal cannot but coincide with the Opinion of every diſintereſted and truly good Proteſtant in the Kingdom.

The Statute which prefers the next Proteſtant Relation, and gavels Eſtates, can at preſent only operate on the Eſtates of ſuch Papiſts as are ſeized

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in Fee-Simple, or Fee-Tail; and as that Law has already ſo far executed itſelf, and there are very few Eſtates now left in the Hands of Papiſts, it is high Time to extend the Operation of it ſomewhat farther; for elſe that Law having nothing to act upon, muſt for the future remain a meer dead Letter. Now as the Proteſtant Cauſe has already received ſuch great Advantages from it, by converting almoſt all the Papiſts of Diſtinction among us: It undoubtedly would not be good Policy in us to ſuffer ſo excellent a Statute to become uſeleſs; but by empowering Papiſts to take long Leaſes, either for Lives or Years, and thereby encouraging them to Induſtry, and Subjecting all ſuch Leaſes to that Clauſe in the Gavel-Act, which prefers the next Proteſtant Relation; I cannot but be convinced, that we ſhould in a very few Years not only ſee the dreary Waſtes of *Ireland*, converted into warm Encloſures, and regular Plantations, but likewiſe have the Pleaſure of beholding many thouſands of Papiſts *annually* renouncing the Errors of the Church of *Rome*.

All the moneyed Papiſts who have made Fortunes by Commerce, from a natural Propenſity to enjoy their Wealth in Quiet, would never think themſelves happy till they were ſettled in ſome pleaſant Retirement; and by this Means we ſhould daily ſee a Multitude of agreeable Villas ſpringing up in all Parts of the Nation; the neceſſary Conſequence of which would be, that the above mentioned Law could never become uſeleſs, as long as there was a Papiſt left in the Kingdom.

And indeed if we even yet went a little further, and as an Encouragement to Papiſts to build and improve, gave them Liberty to purchaſe the abſolute Fee of any Number of Acres not exceeding a hundred, and no Papiſt to purchaſe in Truſt for another; I cannot form to myſelf an Objection that could

could in any Shape counter-balance the Profit that would certainly accrue to the Nation by allowing them ſuch a Priviledge, eſpecially, if it was given with this Reſtriction: That if they did not within ſeven Years after any ſuch Purchaſe, build a good Slate-Houſe of a Dimenſion to be ſpecified, and plant at leaſt ſix-thouſand Trees, either Oak, Aſh, or Elm, upon the Land ſo purchaſed by them, and within ſeven Years from the Time of their Purchaſe, that then all ſuch Purchaſes ſhould be liable to a Bill of Diſcovery, and a Forfeiture, as in Caſes of Papiſts taking Leaſes not agreeable to the Laws now in being. Such an Indulgence muſt in a few Years infallibly overthrow the Popiſh Intereſt of this Country. It would be laying the Ax to the Root, and that too, without the Reproach of Perſecution.

Since every Improvement, and every Purchaſe made by a Papiſt under the aforeſaid Regulations, could not fail of enlarging the Operation of the Gavel Law; and hence in a ſhort Time we might reaſonably expect to ſee ſuch an Encreaſe of Proteſtant Tenants, that in all probabillity a general Conformity in Religion would ſoon follow.

Thus I have ventured to point out where I think our Laws with regard to the making of Converts are manifeſtly defective. Let the little Tyrants of the Country who grow fat upon the Poverty and Ignorance of the Wretches unhappily placed near them make what Outcries they pleaſe; their Malevolence to every Thing that does not promote their own lucrative dirty Ends, makes me regardleſs of what they either ſay or think; but I appeal to the unprejudiced Hearts of all ſincere honeſt Proteſtants, whether a more effectual Cure can be deviſed for the Evils of this Nation, than ſuch a Law as I have been here ſpeaking of.

THERE are many other Particulars in which the People of *Ireland* are confeſſedly wanting to themſelves. The general Outcry among our Gentlemen is, that their Trade is cramped; and though this is doubtleſs a great Hardſhip on us, yet ſurely it is no Reaſon, that becauſe we can't have all that we would, that therefore we are not to reap the Advantages that depend meerly on ourſelves.

EVERY Country, it is true, by the Law of Nations, has an unqueſtionable Right to enjoy the Benefits of Nature in the moſt unlimited Manner; but though this be the Law of Nations, yet ſince we all know it is not the Practice of Nations, give me Leave to ſay, it is abſurd in us to expect any Extenſion of Trade from *England*, that has not an immediate Tendency to promote the Welfare of our Mother Country: For Inſtance, If the People of *England* could by any poſſible Means preſerve the Woollen Manufacture entirely to themſelves, why ſhould we blame them for doing that which all other Nation do? I mean the purſuing their own Intereſt. Indeed if they can't preſerve it without employing our Hands, they ought, and doubtleſs will in Time for their own Sakes let us into ſome of the Profit, and for this one very good Reaſon, becauſe whatever we get will be always ſure to centre in *England*. We indeed ſee moſt clearly that there is no Alterative to be purſued in the Caſe; and as the People of *Great-Britain* by their late Indulgence to us are, it is to be hoped, not far from perceiving the ſame Thing, we ought in the mean Time, and till they think proper to make the local Intereſts of little Corporate Towns, to give Way to the general Welfare of the Publick, to reſt ourſelves contented with Regard to the Woollen Manufactures, and to fix our Endeavours on ſuch Branches of Commerce as we may freely purſue, without giving Umbrage to ſuch near Friends and Fellow-Subjects.

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Our principal Attention ought therefore to be placed on the extending our Linen Manufacture: We ſhould carry it into the remoteſt Corners of the Kingdom; and as there is a Demand for four Times the Quantity that we make at preſent, we ſhould not let other Nations get the Start of us, but apply with that Vigour and Spirit which are neceſſary to eſtabliſh and preſerve ſo valuable a Traffick.

Our Cambrick Manufacture (although but of Yeſterday) is in ſurprizing Forwardneſs; which is a pregnant Inſtance how greatly uſeful a Man of Quality and Fortune can always be to the Publick: But alas! here inſtead of throwing out Reflections, let us rather hope for the future to ſee a generous Spirit riſe up in the Hearts of our Nobility and Gentry, and an Emulation who ſhall be foremoſt in all ſocial Virtues, and Acts of publick Utility.

It is an Obſervation in private Life, that if a Man does not in ſome Sort help himſelf, and as it were aid the good Offices of his Friends, it is almoſt impoſſible for him to have any great Share of Succeſs in the World; the ſame will hold I believe with Regard to this poor Country, which though it poſſeſſeth ſo many Advantages by Nature, being able to ſupply us with every Neceſſary of Life; yet if we neglect to improve thoſe natural Bleſſings, and by a ſtupid Wantonneſs, and an unworthy effeminate Vanity, reſolve to be contented with no Productions that are not foreign, how can we expect to thrive? How is it poſſible for Improvements to go on? for Manufacturers to flouriſh? or for Rents to be well paid? Let it in the firſt Place be conſidered what immenſe Sums are *annually* ſent out of this Kingdom, even for the Neceſſaries of Life, particularly in the three Articles of Coals, Hops, and Corn; all of which, to our Shame be it ſpoken, we ought long ago to have ſupplied ourſelves with,

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and by which we ſhould have ſaved to the Nation, upwards of three-hundred-thouſand Pounds *per Annum*; for ſince it ſeems our Neighbours do not think it reaſonable that we ſhould grow rich by Trade, it is ſurely our own Faults if we do not try what we can do by a little ſaving: But when we take into the Account, the conſtant Drains upon us for foreign Silks, Velvets, Gold-Stuffs, Jewels, Plate, Furniture of all Kinds for our Houſes, Cloaths for Mens Apparel, Trinkets for Coxcombs and Ladies, with innumerable other Articles equally derived from our Folly, it is wonderful that we have a ſingle Shilling left amongſt us; and indeed by the beſt Calculations, if we go on but even a few Months longer in the ſame Courſe, we ſhall not have two-hundred-thouſand Pounds remaining in the Nation, the Conſequences of which muſt be a general Stagnation of all Buſineſs, and a Failure every where in the Payment of our Rents.

I HAVE not here ſpoken of the the Article of Wine, becauſe I am unwilling to put our Gentlemen quite out of Humour, though it is but too evident how much we have ſuffered by that nonſenſical Parade, and Affectation of Hoſpitality that prevails ſo generally amongſt us, inſomuch that few imagine they ſupport the true Dignity of a Maſter of the Houſe without making all their Company what they call extremely merry, or in other Words extremely drunk: But this when viewed in its true Light will appear to be neither Friendſhip nor Generoſity, but merely the Effect of the moſt ſtupid Vanity, ſince if you wanted to borrow but a ſingle Half Crown upon any Emergency, that very Man who was ſo liberal of his Claret, would aſſuredly fly from you, as from a Perſon poſſeſſed of a Plague.

PERHAPS there never was in the World an Inſtance beſides ourſelves, of a People diſſolved in

Luxury in the midſt of the greateſt Diſtreſs and Poverty. Effeminacy and Luxury in other Countries have generally been the Effects of Riches; but amongſt us, the Nature of Things ſeems totally to be inverted. In *Dublin*, as well as moſt other Parts fo the Kingdom, there is no judging from the Manner of entertaining, who the Man of Fortune is, who not; becauſe dine with a Lord, or dine with a Mercer, or a Wine-Merchant, and your Dinner is ſure to conſiſt of the beſt choſen Things, and greateſt Variety in the Markets (and barring the Magnificence of a Sideboard, and the Pomp of ſuperfluous Servants) to be ſerved up with pretty much the ſame Kind of Frippery.

THERE is no greater Immorality (I will venture to ſay it, let it offend who it will) than to live beyond a Man's Income, the Perſon that does it, moſt clearly avows a Deſign to cheat Mankind, and ſhould therefore be treated with the utmoſt Abhorrence. Why ſhould a Man of five-hundred Pounds a Year, preſume to live as well as one of a Thouſand, or a little Tradeſman affect the Table of a Man of Eſtate? A ſecond Courſe given by a Shopkeeper, ought to be looked upon as a Flag of Bankruptcy, and every Man of Senſe will from that Inſtant avoid having any Dealings with a Perſon, that if he is not a Fool, muſt certainly be ſomething worſe, and then the Buyer is ſure in the End to pay for all his Impertinence and Foppery. If a Shop-keeper is reſolved to live with the Pomp of a Gentleman, even let him quit his Counter, and ſtrut away to *Lucas's* in a Sword and Tyed-wigg; but if he will be a Shopkeeper, he ought A to imitate the Traders of *London*, who never affect ntirs that do not belong to them, nor pretend to live a Manner that is inconſiſtent with the honeſt Profi that they ought to make. This Luxury of our Tradeſmen forces them into many

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bad Practices, into a Habit of Fraud, and a Deſire of exorbitant Gain; whereas, if they lived with Frugality and Management, our Manufactures could not fail of flouriſhing under their Hands, and they would neceſſarily grow rich, and the Nation happy. But though the Profuſeneſs of our Tradeſmen deſerves the ſevereſt Reprehenſion, this does not leſſen the Reproach that moſt juſtly falls on our Gentlemen and Ladies, who encourage the Importation of foreign Manufactures; for let our Tradeſmen be never ſo bad, and though our own Productions may perhaps want ſomething of that Perfection that others have; yet, to an *Iriſh* Gentleman of Eſtate, it cannot ſurely be a Matter of Queſtion, whether to ſend the little Specie we have out of the Kingdom, which is never to return to us again, or to wear our own Manufactures, and by keeping our Money at home, to ſee Plenty and Induſtry every where diffuſed, his Eſtate improved, and his Rents well paid. A very-fine Gentleman, or an over nice Lady, may perhaps think it a ſufficient Excuſe for ruining their Country, by ſaying, that our Woollen and Silken Manufactures are not quite as good as thoſe they have from foreign Countries; but let thoſe very fine People conſider, that if there was but a general Conſumption of our own Manufactures, but even for the Space of three Years, our Woollen and Silken Manufactures would equal any upon Earth, for they want nothing at preſent but a little Encouragement to be brought to the higheſt Perfection. Let them at the ſame Time conſider that if they go on but a very little longer in the ſame fantaſtical, I ſhould have ſaid wicked Diſpoſition, (for to deſtroy one's Country I hope I may even as yet call Wickedneſs) they may be aſſured the Conſequence in the End muſt be, that when our own Manufactures are quite gone, and ſunk into Ruin, every thing elſe muſt neceſſarily

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be at ſo low an Ebb in this Kingdom, that they will not be able to go to the Expence of foreign Fineries, and then we ſhall probably ſee a fine mincing Beau, and a ridiculous Coquet, eſteeming themſelves happy in a good Ratteen Coat, or a Poplin Gown. I am well aware that the very naming ſuch groſs Things muſt be a Matter of high Jeſt to ſuch Sort of People; but the Evil is too obvious to be in any Manner doubted, for if our Manufactures fail, our Rents muſt fail, and if our Rents fail, we ſhall certainly have no Money to buy any Thing. I have indeed frequently heard People declare, that the Reaſon of their not wearing the Productions of their own Country, was, becauſe they could not afford to buy often, the *Iriſh* Manufactures not being as durable as thoſe they have from abroad; but in Anſwer to this, I will beg Leave to ſay in the firſt Place, that whatever Difference there is in the Goodneſs of Foreign and *Iriſh* Commodities, is moſt amply made up in the difference of their Prices. But I will yet go a little further, and though for Argument Sake it ſhould be admitted, that foreign Manufactures are much better than our own, and pretty near the ſame Price, yet I do inſiſt upon it, that it is cheaper in every Reſpect to an *Iriſh* Gentleman of Eſtate to buy the Labour of our own Inhabitants, than that of Foreigners: For Inſtance, If a Man pays eighteen Shillings a Yard for a Piece of *Iriſh* Drab, when he could get a much better Piece from *England* at the ſame Price; yet, when it is conſidered, that if he employs our own Inhabitants (perhaps his own Tenants) that ſo much Money is actually ſaved to the Kingdom, and he in Particular benefitted by the prompt Payment of his Rents; and on the Contrary, that in a Country where we have not Specie enough to anſwer the Occaſions of our own little domeſtick Traffick, I mean without the Aid of Bankers Notes, and that by wan-

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tonly ſending even Part of that little Money away, all Buſineſs at home muſt conſequently flag and grow languid, and the Tenants of *Ireland* be thereby rendered unable to pay their Rents; ſurely it cannot be doubted what Part an *Iriſh* Landlord ought to act. But the real Truth is, our Manufactures are already arrived to great Perfection, and are in all Reſpects much cheaper than Foreign, and therefore nothing but the moſt vicious Affectation of deſpiſing whatever is produced at home, can be the Cauſe of our not going into a general Conſumption of them.

It is incumbant principally on our People of Quality and Diſtinction, to ſet the Example, which from the common Courſe of Faſhions, would ſoon encourage others to follow. *Lewis* the XIVth, even in the Infancy of the Woollen Manufacture in *France*, made it the higheſt Reproach for a *Frenchman* to be habited in the Produce of a foreign Country; he began the Faſhion himſelf, in an ordinary Cloath of not above three or four Shillings a Yard; and no one from that Time forward was ſeen in any thing but *French* Cloath. If our Nobility would be ſo good to themſelves to Act the ſame part, we ſhould ſoon ſee the ſame happy Effects produced. There is ſomething very affecting in the Account that Dr. *Swift*, Dean of *St. Patrick*'s gives of us.—'Says he I have been writing for many Years, to per-'ſuade the wretched People of *Ireland* to wear their 'own Manufactures.—Moſt deſervedly indeed ſtyled wretched, when though they ſee the Precipice before them, they will notwithſtanding ride full ſpeed into it. If we did but conſider how many of our poor Manufacturers are at this very Inſtant, ſtarving for want of Buſineſs; a fine Lady arrayed out for a birth Night in a foreign Silk, or a Beaux in a rich *French* Waiſtcoat, would nothwithſtanding the Beauty of of the one, or the Cavalier Polite Addreſs of the

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other, be looked upon in the infamous light they deſerve, that is, as People deſtitude both of Senſe, Honour and Honeſty.

THIS I know is rugged Language, but let thoſe who are likely to be offended with it, be pleaſed to conſider, that if I have ſpoke nothing but Truth, they deſerve Terms full as rugged as thoſe I have made uſe of, for I am not of that Court Preacher's Opinion in King *Charles* the ſecond's Reign, who thought it indecent to mention ſo unpolite a Word, as *Hell*, before a Royal Audience.

As what I have already taken Notice of, are the chiefeſt Grievances of this Kingdom, and as the redreſſing of them, abſolutely depends upon our own future Reſolution and Virtue, I ſhall beg the Reader's Patience only for a few Words more, with regard to ſome Particulars (which though at preſent of leſs importance) yet ſeem to claim our immediate, and moſt ſerious Attention.

No one wants to be told how greatly this Kingdom ſuffered by the Scarcity of two or three late Seaſons, in which many Thouſands of our People periſhed meerly through Want: A Loſs of the moſt fatal Conſequence to a Country, that (if properly cultivated) could Feed almoſt four Million of Mouths more, than we have at preſent amongſt us. I ſhall not take upon me to ſay what Methods we ought to take, or what Laws are neceſſary to prevent ſuch Misfortunes for the Time to come. Granaries have been talked of; and as the late Lord Lieutenant from the Throne, recommended the Conſideration of this Affair, to the Lords and Repreſentatives of the People; it is not to be doubted but ſome Expedient will be thought of, to guard againſt ſuch Calamities for the future. The Articles of Bread and Fire, more immediately affect the Poor and the working Part of our People than any others; and therefore ought

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to be more immediately the Objects of our Care; for if the Neceſſaries of Life are not to be had but at an exhorbitant Price, the Manufacturer muſt neceſſarily raiſe the Price of his Labour; and it is a Truth not to be diſputed, that the lower the Price of Labour is in any Country, the more flouriſhing the Manufactures of that Country muſt neceſſarily be.

GREAT and daily are the Complaints which we hear of the Failure of his Majeſty's Exciſe in this Kingdom, I will not pretend to ſay that they are not well grounded, but I cannot but take Notice in this place, that the late Practice of drinking *Engliſh* Ale and Porter, was grown ſo general, that the Nation muſt have ſuffered in the moſt grievous manner, if an immediate ſtop had not been put to it. This ſhews us the Neceſſity of nipping every thing in the Bud, that has a Tendency to a publick Detriment: In the Infancy of any Miſchief it is eaſy to apply a Remedy; whereas if it is permitted to go on but a little, it every Day gathers Strength, and conſequently grows more obſtinate and hard to be got the better of: Within theſe few Years there have been additional Breweries erected in divers Parts of *England* to ſupply this Nation with what we undoubtedly ought to ſupply ourſelves with; and which if we do not, his Majeſty's Exciſe muſt daily fail more and more, and our happy Eſtabliſhment remain unſupported. If the People of *England* will Pay our Army &c. for us, we ſhall very chearfully Pay them for their Beer, or any other Liquor they pleaſe to ſend us: But, if we are to maintain our own Eſtabliſhment, they muſt permit us to drink our own Beer: I do not ſpeak this, as if I imagined we had any room to complain on this Head againſt the People of *England*; ſince it is not to be ſuppoſed, that our taking the proper Meaſures to remedy this Evil, could afford them the leaſt Umbrage. It is to be hoped there-

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fore that a Duty at leaſt equal to the Exciſe here, will be ſoon laid on Ale and Beer imported into this Kingdom; although I cannot but think that it would be expedient to lay ſuch a Duty as would amount to a total Prohibition.

If I am rightly informed, this poor Country has within a few Years paſt been ſtripped of near forty-thouſand Pounds of its Specie, by the Conſumption of foreign Ale; and all this has been brought about by the depraved, fantaſtical Singularity of ſome few of our own Gentlemen, whoſe elegant Taſtes forſooth, can reliſh nothing that is produced in their own native Country: But let thoſe Gentlemen reflect (I ſpeak it notwithſtanding the inſolent Sneers of many amongſt us) that there is no greater Monſter than the Man who makes the Welfare of his Country ſubſervient to his own baſe Gratifications.

Reader, farewel — And that the People of *Ireland* may not owe their Wiſdom to their Ruin, is the cordial and daily Prayers of a true independant Protestant.

FINIS.